Microsoft and Apple at TCF2008

It seems like only yesterday that Bill Gates was the TCF keynote and banquet speaker, and spent his day at TCF representing Microsoft. He visited the exhibits hall and flea market. He was always polite and answered the questions of those he met. After his banquet talk he did leave early for a flight to China. Almost 20 years later Microsoft is still represented at TCF. This year Microsoft is represented by Brian Johnson. Brian Johnson has been Programming Editor for Microsoft Press, a Content Strategist for MSDN, a Product Manager for Office for Mac, and is now an *Enthusiast Evangelist* for Developer and Platform Evangelism. Before coming to Microsoft Brian was Technical Editor of Microsoft Office and VBA Developer Magazine and was a columnist for Visual J++ Informant Magazine. He is the author of a number of books including Zune for Dummies, Xbox 360 for Dummies, Inside Visual Studio, and Microsoft Image Composer for Dummies. Brian blogs at http://brianjo.spaces.live.com.

He will give two talks at TCF. The first is on Microsoft new robotics control software. It is at 12:25 pm on Saturday in the Brower Student Center and is entitled *Introduction to Microsoft Robotics Studio*. Microsoft Robotics Studio is a tool that allows a user to create and control the logic associated with robotic devices and processes. In his talk you'll learn about what Robotics Studio is, how it works with a wide range of currently available robotics devices, and how you can get started in robotics with just a PC and a little imagination. Topics to be covered include: 1) Introduction to the Virtual Simulation Environment, 2) Simple programming in Visual Programming Language, and 3) Controlling a Lego Mindstorms NXT robot with Robotics Studio. If time permits we hope to get Brian involved in the judging of the robotics contests that will be taking place at TCF.

Brian's second talk will be *Using Windows Vista Media Center to Capture and Enjoy Your Digital Content.* It is scheduled for 3:30 pm in the Social Science Building, and will focus on Windows Media Center, which is now a standard feature in Windows Vista Premium and Windows Vista Ultimate. This talk will introduce users to the Media Center technology and show how it can be incorporated into an individual's digital lifestyle. Topics to be cover include: 1) Using a Media Center from your Desktop, 2) Accessing web-based video and audio content from Windows Media Center, 3) Getting Media Center to your TV through your Xbox 360, and 4) Extending your Media Center with add-ins.

Although the Apple/Mac world was never represented by Steve Jobs or Steven Wozniak at TCF, there has always been a strong Apple/Mac presence. This year Apple Computer is represented by Dave Marra. David is a Senior Systems Engineer for Apple and has conducted more than 500 technology presentations, keynote addresses and workshops for schools, Mac and PC user groups, businesses and other professional organizations across the United States and Canada. His specialty areas include digital multimedia, internet technologies and Mac/PC integration. For more information about Dave, see his web site at www.marrathon.com.

At TCF2008 Dave will speak about the new Mac Leopard operating system. His talk is on Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Social Science Building and is entitled "Introducing Mac OS X v.10.5 Leopard!" He will discuss the over 300 amazing innovations packed into the new Mac OS X v10.5 "Leopard." Its features include a completely new desktop and Finder environment, making it even easier to quickly browse and locate your files; Quick Look, to view the contents of your documents without opening them; Time Machine, a revolutionary automated file backup and recovery utility; Spaces, an exciting new way to keep your Mac clutter-free and organized; Dashboard with Web Clip, to create your very own Dashboard widgets; iChat, for high-quality video and audio conferencing, remote screen sharing, slideshow and presentation delivery; along with significantly updated versions of Spotlight, Safari, iCal, Automator, Mail and much, much more! During the weekend Dave will be doing demonstrations in the TCF exhibit hall to help you to discover Leopard!

The 33rd Annual Trenton Computer Festival (TCF) will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27, 2008 at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey. TCF has been providing a weekend of computer entertainment including shopping and essential free education (at no extra charge) in the form of seminars (50 minutes), workshops (110 minutes) and interactive demonstrations for 32 years. Two years ago, TCF was extended to include a Friday Information Technology (IT) Professional Conference with Saturday sessions open to regular TCF attendees. More than 75 seminars and workshops will be presented over the TCF weekend. A two-day TCF admission pass is $12.50 if purchased in advance, but will be available at the door for $17. Passes for Sunday only are available for $12 at the door. For information about all of the events and activities at this year's TCF including the TCF IT Professional Conference, and to buy advanced tickets please visit http://www.tcf-nj.org/ or call the Trenton Computer Festival show management office at (201) 825-2229.